

Cuts to schools spur fightback

By Joseph Piette
Philadelphia

Hundreds of students marched around City Hall in Philadelphia the afternoon of May 25, chanting and waving colorful homemade signs. Speakers denounced plans to close all 13 accelerated high schools (AHS) in Philadelphia.

These contracted schools specialize in teaching overage, under-credit students who would otherwise be “push-outs” or dropouts. Only 57 percent of this city’s high school students graduate in four years. The AHS are likely the last opportunity to obtain high school diplomas for many youth.

Dozens of demonstrations against school cuts have taken place throughout the state in the last two months.

The May 25 protest took place as students, teachers, staff and parents demanded no cuts at a City Council hearing that lasted into the evening. Len Rieser, executive director of the Education Law Center, testified that the city’s school system is already

underfunded by more than \$4,000 per student, as shown in a 2007 Pennsylvania State Board of Education study.

Facing a \$629 million deficit due to state and federal cuts, the school board is threatening to eliminate full-day kindergarten, student transportation and the AHS program, while increasing class sizes, unless the city comes up with \$110 million in additional funding. These cuts would result in the elimination of 3,820 positions, or 16 percent of the district’s workforce.

Mayor Michael Nutter and the City Council are considering increasing the school district’s share of property tax revenue from 55 percent to 60 percent, forcing the city to make additional cuts in other city programs. Another option being considered is to raise taxes to provide more funding to the schools.

Philadelphia is not alone

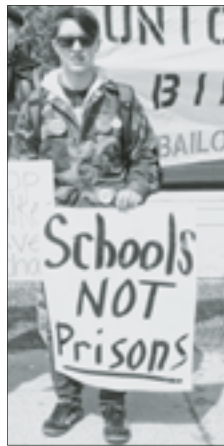
Statewide, Pennsylvania’s threats of massive cuts to education total \$1.5 billion. They include cuts of

Continued on page 6

ARIZONA

Court upholds racist law

3



WW PHOTO:
BRYAN G. PFEIFER

WISCONSIN

A people’s victory

5

AUTO & UAW

Profits up, wages down

5

COPS & RAPE

7

‘WEIRD’ WEATHER & CAPITALISM

10

SPAIN

More protests vs. austerity

Young demonstrators behind police barricades in Barcelona, May 27.

9

PENNSYLVANIA



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Philadelphia students demand quality education, May 25.

Subscribe to Workers World

☐ 4 weeks trial \$4 ☐ 1 year subscription \$25

☐ Sign me up for the WW Supporter Program.

For more information: workers.org/supporters/
212.627.2994 www.workers.org

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City /State/Zip _____

Workers World 55 W. 17th St. #5C, NY, NY 10011

PHOTO: ACAMPADABCN, ANGEL GARCIA



LIBYA African Union demands NATO out

8

YEMEN Imperialism’s role in civil strife

11

Tim O’Brien, Presente!

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

Timothy O’Brien, an activist, scholar and fighter for all workers and oppressed people, died at home on April 26 with his family surrounding him. He loved his family, comrades and friends as much as he hated war, racism, exploitation and executions.

O’Brien died of cancer, the same kind that killed his father exactly two years ago in April 2009. It had spread to his brain and beyond.

Tim realized that the end was nearing when doctors said last winter that there were no more treatments for him. But he lived life to the fullest each and every day he had left: finishing his manuscript for a book on musician Lightning Hopkins; spending special time with his daughter, Yuna O’Brien, and spouse, Kyong Mi O’Brien; attending one last conference on sweatshops; going to Austin to hear some good, live music; and having friends over for a last visit.

Abolition Movement founder Njeri Shakur stated: “The Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement is forever indebted to Tim for giving so much energy, for setting up our Web page and for energizing our movement. Tim attended a demonstration for Todd Willingham last winter before the Court of Inquiry ... that proved Todd was an innocent man executed by Gov. Rick Perry. He attended the January hearing ... where attorneys presented compelling evidence that the use of the death penalty in Texas is unconstitutional. And he loved and fought for residents in our Freedman’s Town.”

“Some people see an injustice and act on it. Others don’t see these critical issues. Tim O’Brien was in the former camp,” said public radio activist Ted Weisgal.

Pat Thompson of the Communist Party USA stated: “I will always remember Tim as a brave, outstanding leader and fighter for the working class. He didn’t hesitate to get right in the middle of many fights against large parasitic corporations feeding off the labor of working people here and around the world. He was an internationalist who understood that injustice against workers in other countries is used to oppress workers in this country. He fought tirelessly against sweatshop labor and stood up for the voiceless. He joined several of us when we went



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Tim O'Brien fought against the death penalty.

to Austin with the AFL-CIO to fight for health care and was a powerful presence at countless rallies and protests.

“Many injustices were done to him, and he fought them fearlessly and prevailed in many cases. However, the injustices of our medical system and his difficulty in accessing health care clearly shortened his exemplary life. He should be remembered as a martyr of our broken health care system,” Thompson concluded.

Tim was a man with a Ph.D. like no other! He was at home in academia as well as in Freedman’s Town. He could carry on with professors as well as with workers with no initials behind their names. Like his mentor, housing activist Lenwood Johnson, Tim was educated as well as a fighter for the oppressed.

The funeral hall on April 29 was filled with a multinational crowd of family and activists, who gave tribute to Tim for more than an hour. The Free Radicals welcomed the host of mourners with New Orleans brass band jazz, funeral procession music.

On May Day, May 1, a special tribute was given to Tim by Houston’s immigrant rights coalition, Houston Unido. A framed poster of May Day 2011 was presented to his sister, spouse and daughter.

Tim won many battles, inspired many young activists and left a legacy for us all: Dare to struggle, dare to win! □

Organizing against the death penalty

The 32nd Annual Pan African Cultural Festival was hosted by the S.H.A.P.E. Community Center on May 28. The 98-degree heat didn’t cause a pause as families, activists, poets, musicians and dancers came to Our Park to celebrate and educate. DeeJay Zin, host of Pacifica Radio’s “Sound of Soul,” kept the crowd moving with music and spoken word. Many tributes were paid to Gil Scott-Heron, the peoples’ revolutionary poet and musician, who had died the day before.

The Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement was one of the

organizations that set up a table and dispensed information about the racist use of the death penalty. Photos of death row activists with Panthers United for Revolutionary Education framed the table. Mumia Abu-Jamal’s recent book, “Jailhouse Lawyers,” was the best seller. Information on the current wave of repression on Texas death row and the prisoners’ struggle against it was distributed. People were signed up to go before the Texas Prison Board to demand an end to the isolation and repression of death row prisoners.

— Report & photo by Gloria Rubac

Houston festival



JOIN US

Workers World Party (WWP) fights for socialism and engages in struggles on all the issues that face the working class & oppressed peoples — Black & white, Latino/a, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women & men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed & students. If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

National Office
55 W. 17 St.
New York, NY 10011
212-627-2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
P.O. Box 5565
Atlanta, GA 30307
404-627-0185
atlanta@workers.org

Baltimore
c/o Solidarity Center
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
443-909-8964
baltimore@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617-522-6626
Fax 617-983-3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
367 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-883-2534
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216-738-0320
cleveland@workers.org

Denver
denver@workers.org

Detroit
5920 Second Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313-459-0777
detroit@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
331 W. Main St., Ste. 408
Durham, NC 27701
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713-503-2633
houston@workers.org

Los Angeles
1905 Rodeo Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018
la@workers.org
323-515-5870

Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610-931-2615
phila@workers.org

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org

Rochester, N.Y.
585-436-6458
rochester@workers.org

San Diego, Calif.
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
619-692-0355
sandiego@workers.org

San Francisco
2940 16th St., #207
San Francisco CA 94103
415-738-4739
sf@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300
Washington, DC 20037
dc@workers.org

WORKERS WORLD this week...

★ In the U.S.

Cuts to schools spur fightback.....	1
Tim O'Brien, Presente!	2
Organizing against the death penalty.....	2
Court upholds Arizona’s anti-immigrant law	3
People’s lawyer gets jail sentence	3
Socialism: What it is not	4
Judge strikes down anti-union law in Wisconsin.....	5
Auto bosses rebound on backs of workers	5
The Pentagon & slave labor in U.S. prisons, Part 1.....	6
The police & rape.....	7
New Yorkers protest rape verdict	7
‘People’s indictment’ issued against police brutality	7

★ Around the world

African Union calls for end to NATO bombing of Libya.....	8
Cynthia McKinney speaks on Libyan TV	8
NATO: A feast of blood.....	8
Mass demonstrations in Spain spread across Europe	9
Zelaya’s return to Honduras celebrated in New York	9
Floods, tornadoes & social revolution	10
Yemen teeters on brink of civil war.....	11
NYC event raises funds for Gaza flotilla	11

★ Editorials

Mladic, Libya and justice.....	10
--------------------------------	----

★ Noticias En Español

Represión en A.L.....	12
Redada del FBI contra activista	12

Workers World
55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

Vol. 53, No. 22 • June 9, 2011
Closing date: May 31, 2011

Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Technical Editor: Lal Roohk

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Leslie Feinberg, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson

West Coast Editor: John Parker

Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, Jaimeson Champion, G. Dunkel, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac

Technical Staff: Sue Davis, Shelley Ettinger, Bob McCubbin, Maggie Vascassenno

Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Michael Martínez, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

Copyright © 2011 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$25; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at www.workers.org/email.php.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.

Court upholds Arizona's anti-immigrant 'Employer Sanctions' law

By Paul Teitelbaum
Tucson, Ariz.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled May 26 in favor of the Arizona law that forces all employers to check a government-run database to determine if a person is "authorized" to work. The law was signed in July 2007 by then Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano and went into effect on Jan. 1, 2008. The misnamed "Employer Sanctions" bill is in reality an attack on workers since it criminalizes the fundamental right of a person to seek work.

The vast majority of humankind has no other way to survive than to sell his or her labor power for wages. We are forced, out of necessity, to do whatever it takes to find a boss who will purchase our labor power — someone who will pay us to work. For immigrant workers, this necessity may force them to make a dangerous journey of hundreds of miles or more, often involving a trek through unknown and harsh terrain. This vulnerable sector of workers, demonized and vilified by the corporate press, is forced by this law to show documents to a boss before being granted the right to work.

The boss takes the documents supplied

by the worker and checks them against the federal government's E-Verify database to see if the Social Security number matches an entry in the database. If the SSN isn't in the database, the employer receives a "no-match" letter stating that the SSN could not be found.

The no-match letter does not present any real danger to the employer. In fact, the bosses use the threat of this E-Verify "no-match" letter and employer sanctions as another way to harass and intimidate immigrant workers, who may demand a decent wage or complain about intolerable working conditions.

If workers make up Social Security numbers for the sole purpose of getting a job, they are charged under Arizona's Employer Sanctions law with identity theft, which is a felony. This shows how the law is really aimed at the workers.

The Employer Sanctions law is meaningless to Immigration and Customs En-



forcement. Since the law's inception in 2007 and the forced use of the E-Verify database, workplace raids by ICE have increased without regard to whether or not the targeted employer complied with E-Verify.

The result is heavily armed SWAT teams terrorizing workers with automatic weapons, rounding them up, placing them in chains and carting them off to detention centers. Families and communities are ripped apart. But the bosses are back in business the next day unscathed.

'Burdensome' discrimination

The database itself is considered flawed by many. It was judged unreliable in July 2006 by the right-wing Heritage Foundation. On Feb. 25, 2010, the Wall Street Journal noted that a study commissioned by the Department of Homeland Security showed that the database had an inaccuracy rate of about 54 percent. On May 7 the National Immigration Law Center

issued a critique of E-Verify with quotes from employers bemoaning its poor reliability and accuracy.

Many businesses in Arizona oppose the Employer Sanctions law and see it as too burdensome. These bosses still want cheap sources of labor power. They prefer a "guest worker" program, in which workers are delivered by the state when needed and disposed of when no longer needed. Guest workers would have no rights, could not organize a union and would be at the complete mercy of the bosses.

By letting the Arizona law stand, the Supreme Court has given the green light to other states to follow suit. As with other racist, anti-immigrant laws like SB1070, they are hatched here in Arizona, and if successful, other states are ready to enact copycat legislation.

The capitalist courts don't determine the final outcome, however. It is the determination of the people in the struggle that makes the difference. Although the Supreme Court may have ruled in favor of this law, we oppose it and will fight against it and all other racist, repressive anti-immigrant legislation that spews forth in Arizona, Georgia, Utah or anywhere else. □

For standing up to racism

People's lawyer gets jail sentence

By Steve Kirschbaum
Boston

On May 19, people's attorney and long-time movement ally Barry Wilson was sentenced to 90 days in the South Bay House of Correction in Boston for contempt of court. This outrageous sentence was in response to Wilson's challenging racism and pro-law-enforcement bias in the jury selection process.

Wilson was defending a 22-year-old African-American man who was facing first-degree murder charges. Wilson had forcefully and passionately advocated for his client, objecting to the prosecutor's consistent use of peremptory challenges to strike all African Americans from the jury.

After an African-American juror was challenged because her children had "experience with law enforcement," the judge allowed a white, longtime Homeland Security veteran to be seated on May 5. Wilson strenuously objected and chal-

lenged Judge Patrick Brady on his reactionary, racist and pro-police bias.

Wilson has a long history of defending political activists, labor organizers, immigrants and oppressed people. He was lead counsel in the Plymouth 25, Marcus Jean and Amer Jubran cases; the first lawyer for the Boston School Bus Drivers, Steelworkers Local 8751, in the 1970s; counsel for framed African-American City Councilor Chuck Turner; and has participated in countless other cases. Wilson once did six months in federal prison for refusing to violate attorney-client privilege. This flagrantly reactionary repression — which comes from the same poisoned well that jailed people's lawyer Lynne Stewart — is designed to send a threatening message to the progressive movement and to all defense lawyers who stand with it.

At a May 19 contempt hearing the courtroom was packed with supporters, including nearly every recognized progressive lawyer in the city as well as the family of the convicted young man, sup-



WW PHOTO: STEVE KIRSCHBAUM

Barry Wilson, left, with client Chuck Turner in February 2009.

porters of City Councilor Turner, Local 8751 members and International Action Center activists. Wilson's law partner, Michelle Brennan, made numerous airtight legal arguments defending Wilson.

The judge's outrageous, reactionary and vindictive behavior on the bench exposed him for the tool of the capitalist state that he is.

The highlight of the day was Wilson's defiant statement to Judge Brady, who wanted Wilson to beg for mercy and identify "mitigating factors" to show his remorse. Wilson explained that the only mitigating factor was that he had to try his case in an atmosphere of racist, reactionary and pro-law-enforcement tyranny. He passionately defended his actions as the only responsible, ethical and appropriate conduct — in order to zealously and passionately advocate for his client and for oppressed people generally. He stated that in 2011 an African-American man cannot get a fair trial.

Wilson spent most of his statement continuing to advocate for his client, saying that his client was the real victim of the court's unjust and unlawful conduct. A racist, pro-cop jury had found Wilson's client guilty, despite the fact that there was no credible evidence to support this unjust verdict.

Wilson concluded by stating that in 37 years he has never backed down from giving 100 percent to his clients' defense, particularly against racism and pro-cop bias, and pledged to continue regardless of the judge's sentence.

Wilson is scheduled to begin his sentence on June 29. He plans on appealing this outrageous injustice.

At Local 8751's monthly membership meeting on May 26, a strong resolution was passed supporting Wilson and recognizing his exemplary contributions to the struggle history of the union as well as his defense of movement militants and activists for more than 30 years. □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS and the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

Edited by Monica Moorehead. Includes • **Racism,**

National Oppression & Self-Determination Larry Holmes

• **Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam

Marcy • **Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** LeiLani Dowell

• **The Struggle for Socialism Is Key** Monica Moorehead

• **Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for**

Human Rights & Global Justice! Saladin Muhammad

• **Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping**

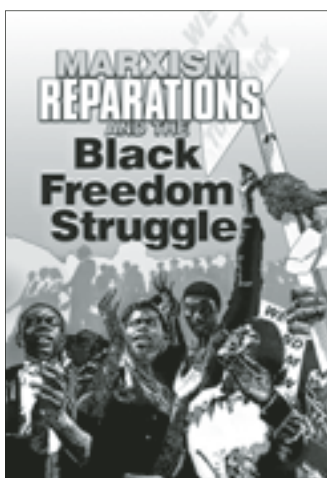
& Segregation Consuela Lee • **Harriet Tubman, Woman**

Warrior Mumia Abu-Jamal • **Are Conditions Ripe Again**

Today? 40th Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion

John Parker • **Racism and Poverty in the Delta** Larry Hales

• **Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions** Pat Chin



COVER ILLUSTRATION BY SAHU BARRON

Available at **Leftbooks.com**

Socialism: What it is not

By Caleb T. Maupin

To more and more people in the world, it is abundantly clear that the capitalist system doesn't work. At least not for the majority. The system that generates war after war, that allows millions in the U.S. to be unemployed, millions more to go without health care, while fomenting racism, sexism, and anti-lesbian/gay/bi/trans/queer bigotry, and offering no future to the next generation is a disaster for the workers and oppressed people inside the U.S. and worse yet for the rest of the world.

In this time of crisis, as capitalism shows its true face, many are thinking and talking about the alternative system — socialism.

It is important to point out that there are many political parties around the world, especially outside the United States, whose name is "Socialist Party," although they may have no relationship at all to socialism as defined by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels or as developed in the Soviet Union starting in 1917 or in the People's Republic of China or in Cuba.

The rightist sections of the media have made a big deal out of the fact that Dominique Strauss-Kahn is part of the po-

litical party in France called the "Socialist Party" (PS) since its founding in 1969. DSK, as he is known, is facing charges in New York that he raped a housekeeper in a luxury hotel where he was staying. He was, until his recent resignation, the head of the capitalist International Monetary Fund — which brutalizes the working class, indeed entire countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and now even those in Europe.

DSK is not a socialist, but a quintessential capitalist, who possessed personal wealth, the power that comes from being the director of a major imperialist financial institution, and the possibility of being elected president of France on the PS ticket. The PS's only connection to real socialism is historical, as it stemmed from parties that were members of the part of the socialist movement known as social democracy.

These social democratic parties — the PS in France, the Social Democratic Party in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Labor Party in Britain, for example — sometimes ran administrations governing these countries after 1945. Sometimes they even delivered social benefits to the European workers. But they ran these administrations on behalf of the

capitalist system and the capitalist rulers, never challenging their source of power.

Today these parties don't even pretend to advocate socialism. They are little more than an alternative to center-right governments, much as the Democratic Party in the U.S. is an alternative to the Republican Party. Thus the governments of Portugal, Spain and Greece, although socialist in name, are all imposing austerity programs on the workers of their respective countries.

Example of social democracy: Labor government

There are historical examples of social democratic parties in office offering concessions to the working class, but these too are not real socialism. For example, in 1945 after World War II, much of Britain had been destroyed by Nazi bombs. In order to rebuild the economy, the Labor Party government took control of important sections of the economy.

Soon the Labor government administered mining, trains, electricity, radio, television and numerous other important parts of the British economy. But the government that took control of these economic institutions and directed them had bought them from their capitalist

owners. It compensated the owners, even though many of these firms were not producing profits.

A national health care service was created, but it was always subject to cuts and underfunding. Numerous protests and strikes were held by the workers in order to keep government-owned hospitals open and well funded.

Then in the 1980s an openly right-wing government reversed many of the "nationalizations." The Margaret Thatcher administration sold the various industries rebuilt with workers' tax money to private corporations — and sold them cheap. The wealth of the billionaire class had never lost power, and it was happy to buy back the now profitable industries from a government they, not the public, controlled all along.

Regarding foreign policy, Labor governments in 1950 joined the U.S. war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in 1999 in the bombing of Yugoslavia, in 2001 the invasion of Afghanistan and in 2003 the invasion of Iraq. The social democratic parties in France, Italy, Germany, Spain and other imperialist countries have also participated in imperialist wars. They are "socialist" in name alone. □

An appeal to WW readers

For more than 50 years, Workers World/Mundo Obrero has contributed a revolutionary Marxist perspective that has shed light on events, both international and domestic, from the point of view of the interests of the working class and the oppressed. It has championed and explained the struggle to end this insatiable capitalist profit system, which is bringing grief to the whole planet.

From the battle lines in Wisconsin, where workers are fighting an anti-union onslaught; to the May Day rallies for immigrant and workers' rights; to besieged Gaza, where the Palestinian people are resisting Israeli aggression, our activist reporters send firsthand accounts and photos that counter the lies and distortions in the monopoly-owned media.

Today, WW/MO is the ONLY socialist/communist newspaper in the U.S. that continues to publish a weekly bi-lingual printed edition, while also putting up a complete PDF version online that reaches hundreds of thousands of readers around the world each week.

Even in this electronic age and despite the costs, we must have a printed edition. The paper must be at every major event fighting injustice. Militant unionists coast to coast order bundles of WW/MO for their members' study. Strikers and anti-war protesters welcome coverage of their struggles and pass the paper on. Prisoners starving for real news of the world outside the walls are sent subscriptions; they deeply appreciate analysis of the conditions of racism and economic violence that put them behind bars.



WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK



WW PHOTO

You, our readers, can help

We are asking you to help keep this newspaper going by donating to the WW/MO Spring Fund Drive. Our goal is to raise \$60,000. It's a small budget for a fighting newspaper with a big impact, and that reflects our all-volunteer staff. Unfortunately, the landlord, the printer and the utilities don't volunteer their services. So please give us a hand.

- Fill out the coupon below to make a contribution now to the Spring Fund Drive.
- Join the WW Supporter Program and make a regular monthly or yearly donation.
- Give to the newspaper and the struggle in the future by including WW in your will.

Whatever you can contribute will nourish the fighting spirit that infuses every issue of WW/MO.

Donate to the Workers World National Fund Drive! YES! I want to contribute to the publication of this workers' weekly newspaper.

Enclosed is my donation of ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$35 \$ _____ Other ☐ I am interested in joining the WW Supporter Program. For more information and to donate, see www.workers.org/supporters. Write checks to Workers World. Indicate if for Fund Drive on memo line. ☐ I would like to give a gift for the future to publish this vital publication. Please contact me about how to put Workers World newspaper in my will.

Name _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Phone No. _____ Email _____
Organization/Campus/Union _____
Return to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th floor, New York, NY 10011.
To inquire, call 212-627-2994 or email ww@workers.org.

People's victory in Wisconsin

Judge strikes down anti-union law

By Bryan G. Pfeifer
Waukesha, Wis.

As a result of the ongoing people's struggle in Wisconsin and worldwide support for it, a permanent injunction was issued by a Dane County judge May 26 that struck down the union-busting bill signed by Gov. Scott Walker on March 11.

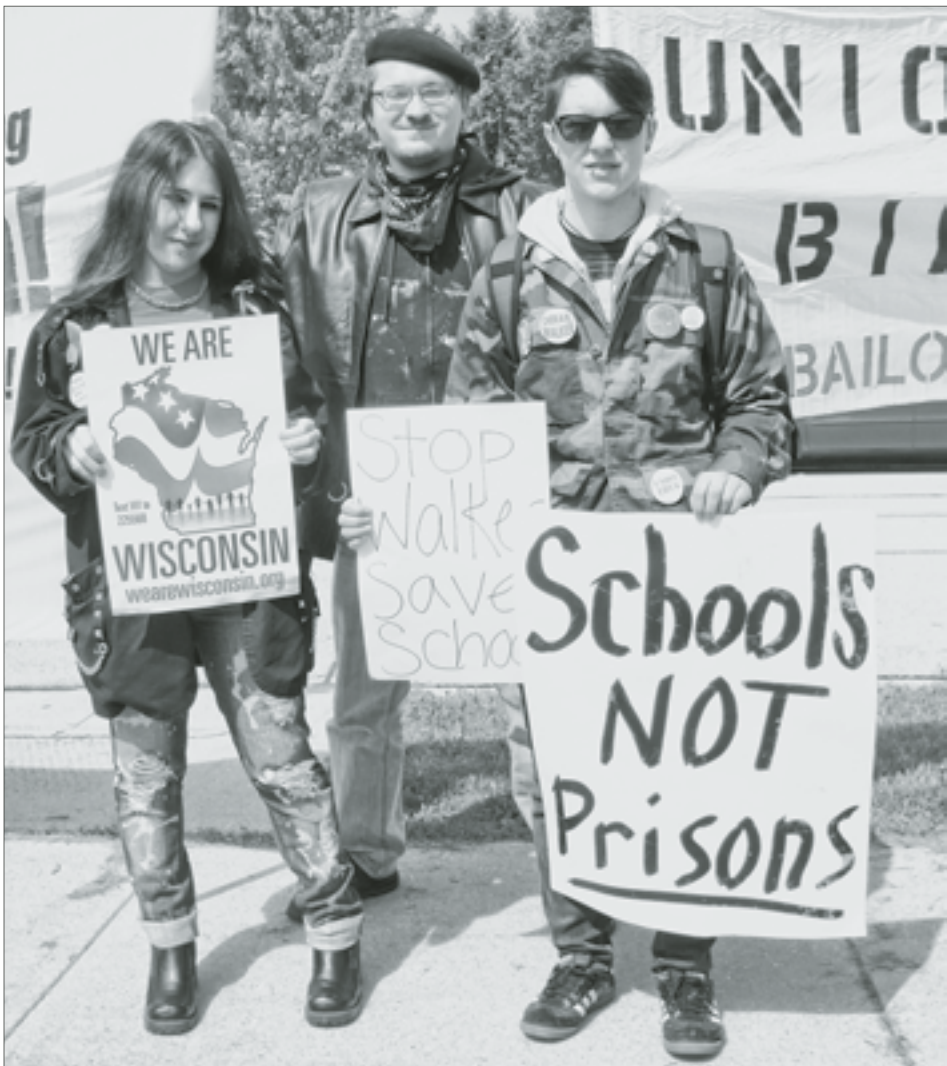
Phil Neuenfeldt, president of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, stated: "Judge [Maryann] Sumi upheld what we knew [from] the beginning, that the law stripping hundreds of thousands of public employees of their rights was passed illegally, in the dead of the night through a back-door maneuver. The people have been clear from day one; they have stood together in the streets of Madison and in the streets around the state to express that this law is too extreme for Wisconsin. ... We hope that the Supreme Court will consider the careful review conducted by Judge Sumi and support her conclusion." (<http://wisafcio.typepad.com/>)

Sumi ruled that there is "clear and convincing" evidence that the state's Open Meetings Law was violated. To pass a bill in what is known as a Joint Committee of Conference, 24-hours' notice must be given to both state legislators and the public. This wasn't done in the case of the anti-collective-bargaining bill.

On June 6 the Wisconsin State Supreme Court will hear oral arguments for and against taking the collective bargaining case. The court could decide to uphold Sumi's decision and not take the case; take the case and keep the injunction in place while arguments are presented; or lift the injunction while the case is argued.

The Wisconsin State Justice Department immediately filed a brief with the Wisconsin Supreme Court asking it to vacate Sumi's ruling immediately without hearing arguments on June 6. As of May 29 the Supreme Court has not issued any statement regarding the union-busting bill.

Although this is a temporary victory for poor and working people, the Wisconsin



WW PHOTO: BRYAN G. PFEIFER

Protesters confront Gov. Walker at an elementary school.

AFL-CIO warns that the fight is not over to defeat the anti-union bill. Gov. Walker and other right-wing politicians in the Wisconsin legislature — at the behest of the banks, corporations and the Pentagon — are intent on having the bill become law. Their next move will probably be an attempt to inject union-busting provisions into the 2011-13 state budget, which also includes billions of dollars in cuts.

Mobilizing continues

Unions, community allies and student supporters are planning to pack the court

on June 6, along with other protest actions statewide, to defeat the reactionary bill.

With the assistance of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO and other labor, community and student organizations, a statewide mobilization has gathered tens of thousands of signatures to set the stage for recall elections in July.

The state Government Accountability Board has voted unanimously to schedule recall elections on July 12 for six Republican legislators, all of whom voted for the union-busting bill signed by Gov. Walker. Challengers have until June 14 to gather

400 to 800 signatures to get on the ballot. The incumbents will automatically appear on the ballots.

In conjunction with the recall activity, protests continue statewide to defeat the union-busting bill and other attacks on poor and working people. On May 25 hundreds came out at the state Capitol in Madison to protest the signing of a racist voter identification bill by Walker.

The governor is being confronted wherever he goes in Wisconsin and beyond. For example, Jenna Pope of UWM (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) Occupied helped organize a protest against Walker at Banting Elementary School in Waukesha, a suburb just west of Milwaukee, on May 27.

When UWM Occupied heard that Walker was going to visit the school his niece attends to read to her class, a protest was immediately called. The action was posted on Facebook, which brought out people from the neighborhood to join the anti-Walker demonstration. Bail Out the People Movement and Workers World Party activists also attended. When Walker arrived, he was confronted with shouts of "Shame!" and "Coward!"

Pope stated: "We're here to show Walker that he can't go anywhere without us following him around. The people of Wisconsin are not happy with what he's doing. No matter where he goes there's going to be people there that disagree with what he's doing. I think it's funny that he's going to an elementary school because he's planning on making a lot of cuts to education, so I think it's a perfect place to have a protest."

Retired teacher Mary Busch said, "I'm a strong believer in public education. It's a shame what they're doing to public education. We're public employees, not public slaves." Busch held up a sign reading "Schools not prisons."

A list of upcoming protest actions against the union-busting bill and other anti-people attacks in Wisconsin can be found at www.defendwisconsin.org. □

Chrysler pays back loan early

Auto bosses rebound on backs of workers

By Martha Grevatt

For over a year now, the ruling-class press has been rejoicing over the return to profitability of Ford and General Motors. Record profits are being made even as vehicle sales still hover at well below pre-recession levels. GM and Ford netted \$4.7 billion and \$6.6 billion respectively after taxes and interest in 2010.

The spotlight recently shifted to Chrysler and the payback — six years ahead of schedule — of the 2009 U.S. Treasury loans that financed the "leaner and meaner" reinvention of the 86-year-old corporation. Led by Goldman Sachs, lenders and bondholders refinanced most of Chrysler's \$7.4 billion debt to the U.S. and Canadian national governments and the Ontario provincial governments at a substantially lower interest rate. A sum of \$1.27 billion was paid by Fiat, whose CEO, Sergio Marchionne, is also CEO of Chrysler. Fiat acquired an additional 16 percent stake in Chrysler, giving the Italian company 46 percent ownership.

Why are the executives of Goldman Sachs and their cohorts optimistic about Chrysler's rebound? In the first quarter of this year Chrysler actually posted a net

profit of more than \$100 million. Chrysler posted an "operating profit" — profit before taxes and interest — in all four quarters of 2010. In other words, after labor and other costs were covered, there was enough left over for the financiers — in this case the U.S. Treasury — to get their cut. The Treasury, which charged Chrysler 20 percent interest, is beholden to Wall Street and world banks.

While often referred to, "the taxpayers" won't see one penny of the early loan repayment.

The lenders' confidence in a company whose future was in doubt two years ago means that they anticipate a rise in profits. And why not? Chrysler has the same "success formula" as Ford and GM — take it from workers.

The White House Auto Task Force, drawn from Wall Street and capitalist think tanks, demanded huge concessions from the United Auto Workers in 2009 — cuts in pay and paid time off worth \$10,000 or more per worker. These givebacks were on top of sacrifices made in the 2007 contracts. If the workers said no, the company would be liquidated, and they would all be out of a job. These scare tactics by the capitalist state were in open

violation of the workers' right to "free collective bargaining" under the 1935 Wagner Act.

Two-tier wages create 'culture of poverty'

One of the worst concessions was the expansion of the two-tier wage structure. Chrysler now has thousands of recently hired workers being paid half the "traditional" wage of around \$28 per hour. Many are temporary employees who receive no benefits and can be fired for any excuse if they complain. For workers to be doing similar work and be paid at different rates erodes union solidarity. The drastic cut in wages, along with reduced or nonexistent benefits, represents a huge transfer of wealth from the workers to the company — and to whoever owns its debt.

Chrysler closed six plants — including this writer's former plant — in Ohio, Wisconsin, Delaware, Missouri and Michigan. Thousands of workers, unable to relocate to a plant out of state or worried about the company's future, took buyouts. This process created the vacancies that are being filled by low-wage autoworkers.

CEO Marchionne is portrayed favorably in the media — apparently the bankers like his attitude. Former government

"car czar," Stephen Rattner, once quoted him as saying that the United Auto Workers union "had to get used to a culture of poverty." The second tier wage of \$14 an hour is close to the federal poverty rate for a family of four.

For all their sacrifices, which got Chrysler on sound financial footing, workers were given buttons celebrating the loan payback.

In September, the contracts between the UAW and Chrysler, Ford and GM will expire. Now is the time to mobilize the rank and file to demand, at a minimum, equal pay for equal work. Instead, the UAW leadership insists that the companies need the second tier to be "competitive." "It is no good making \$28, \$38 or \$48 an hour if you don't have a job," argued UAW Vice President Joe Ashton. (Detroit News, May 26)

What Ashton could have said is that low wages do not create jobs and that the workers who really run these highly productive plants should all be paid union wages. The UAW should reject the culture of poverty!

Martha Grevatt has been a UAW Chrysler worker for 23 years. Email: mgrevatt@workers.org

The Pentagon & slave labor in U.S. prisons

By Sara Flounders

Prisoners earning 23 cents an hour in U.S. federal prisons are manufacturing high-tech electronic components for Patriot Advanced Capability 3 missiles, launchers for TOW (Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided) anti-tank missiles, and other guided missile systems. A March article by journalist and financial researcher Justin Rohrlich of World in Review is worth a closer look at the full implications of this ominous development. (minyanville.com)

The expanding use of prison industries, which pay slave wages, as a way to increase profits for giant military corporations is a frontal attack on the rights of all workers.

Prison labor — with no union protection, overtime pay, vacation days, pensions, benefits, health and safety protection, or Social Security withholding — also makes complex components for McDonnell Douglas/Boeing's F-15 fighter aircraft, the General Dynamics/Lockheed Martin F-16, and Bell/Textron's Cobra helicopter. Prison labor produces night-vision goggles, body armor, camouflage uniforms, radio and communication devices, and lighting systems and components for 30-mm to 300-mm battleship anti-aircraft guns, along with land mine sweepers and electro-optical equipment for the BAE Systems Bradley Fighting Vehicle's laser rangefinder. Prisoners recycle toxic electronic equipment and overhaul military vehicles.

Labor in federal prisons is contracted out by UNICOR, previously known as Federal Prison Industries, a quasi-public, for-profit corporation run by the Bureau of Prisons. In 14 prison factories, more than 3,000 prisoners manufacture electronic equipment for land, sea and airborne communication. UNICOR is now the U.S. government's 39th largest contractor, with 110 factories at 79 federal penitentiaries.

The majority of UNICOR's products and services are on contract to orders from the Department of Defense. Giant multinational corporations purchase parts assembled at some of the lowest labor rates in the world, then resell the finished weapons components at the highest rates of profit. For example, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon Corporation subcontract components, then assemble and sell advanced weapons systems to the Pentagon.

Increased profits, unhealthy workplaces

However, the Pentagon is not the only buyer. U.S. corporations are the world's largest arms dealers, while weapons and aircraft are the largest U.S. export. The U.S. State Department, Department of Defense and diplomats pressure NATO members and dependent countries around the world into multibillion-dollar weapons purchases that generate further corporate profits, often leaving many countries mired in enormous debt.

But the fact that the capitalist state has found yet another way to drastically undercut union workers' wages and ensure still higher profits to military corporations — whose weapons wreak such havoc around the world — is an ominous development.

According to CNN Money, the U.S. highly skilled and well-paid "aerospace workforce has shrunk by 40 percent in the past 20 years. Like many other industries, the defense sector has been quietly outsourcing production (and jobs) to cheaper labor markets overseas." (Feb. 24) It seems that with prison labor, these jobs are also being outsourced domestically.

Meanwhile, dividends and options to a handful of top stockholders and CEO compensation packages at top military corporations exceed the total payment of wages to the more than 23,000 imprisoned workers who produce UNICOR parts.

The prison work is often dangerous,

toxic and unprotected. At FCC Victorville, a federal prison located at an old U.S. airbase, prisoners clean, overhaul and reassemble tanks and military vehicles returned from combat and coated in toxic spent ammunition, depleted uranium dust and chemicals.

A federal lawsuit by prisoners, food service workers and family members at FCI Marianna, a minimum security women's prison in Florida, cited that toxic dust containing lead, cadmium, mercury and arsenic poisoned those who worked at UNICOR's computer and electronic recycling factory.

Prisoners there worked covered in dust, without safety equipment, protective gear, air filtration or masks. The suit explained that the toxic dust caused severe damage to nervous and reproductive systems, lung damage, bone disease, kidney failure, blood clots, cancers, anxiety, headaches, fatigue, memory lapses, skin lesions, and circulatory and respiratory problems. This is one of eight federal prison recycling facilities — employing 1,200 prisoners — run by UNICOR.

After years of complaints the Justice Department's Office of the Inspector General and the Federal Occupational Health Service concurred in October 2008 that UNICOR has jeopardized the lives and safety of untold numbers of prisoners and staff. (Prison Legal News, Feb. 17, 2009)

Racism & U.S. prisons

The U.S. imprisons more people per capita than any country in the world. With less than 5 percent of the world population, the U.S. imprisons more than 25 percent of all people imprisoned in the world.

There are more than 2.3 million prisoners in federal, state and local prisons in the U.S. Twice as many people are under probation and parole. Many tens of thousands of other prisoners include undocumented immigrants facing deportation, prisoners awaiting sentencing and youth-

ful offenders in categories considered reform or detention.

The racism that pervades every aspect of life in capitalist society — from jobs, income and housing to education and opportunity — is most brutally reflected by who is caught up in the U.S. prison system.

More than 60 percent of U.S. prisoners are people of color. Seventy percent of those being sentenced under the three strikes law in California — which requires mandatory sentences of 25 years to life after three felony convictions — are people of color. Nationally, 39 percent of African-American men in their 20s are in prison, on probation or on parole. The U.S. imprisons more people than South Africa did under apartheid. (Linn Washington, "Incarceration Nation")

The U.S. prison population is not only the largest in the world — it is relentlessly growing. The U.S. prison population is more than five times what it was 30 years ago.

In 1980, when Ronald Reagan became president, there were 400,000 prisoners in the U.S. Today the number exceeds 2.3 million. In California the prison population soared from 23,264 in 1980 to 170,000 in 2010. The Pennsylvania prison population climbed from 8,243 to 51,487 in those same years. There are now more African-American men in prison, on probation or on parole than were enslaved in 1850, before the Civil War began, according to Law Professor Michelle Alexander in the book "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness."

Today a staggering 1-in-100 adults in the U.S. are living behind bars. But this crime, which breaks families and destroys lives, is not evenly distributed. In major urban areas one-half of Black men have criminal records. This means life-long, legalized discrimination in student loans, financial assistance, access to public housing, mortgages, the right to vote and, of course, the possibility of being hired for a job.

Next: Slave labor, private prisons and the prison-industrial complex.

Pennsylvania: Cuts to schools spur fightback

Continued from page 1

\$38.6 million from Head Start, the pre-kindergarten programs Child Care Works and Pre-K Counts, and full-day kindergarten programs. About 7,000 children may lose their daycare services, according to the Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children. The budget also eliminates the total amount in state support, \$6.3 million, to community-based family centers.

"We all know this is an assault on urban America and education by not just Pennsylvania, but state governments across [the country]. ... I think that we can't allow Harrisburg [the state capital] or anybody else to play games with us. We need all the programs. We should have absolutely no cuts," said Emmanuel Bussie in testimony before a Philadelphia City Council hearing on May 25. His 6-year-old daughter Elshadye accompanied him.

"We feel as though [Gov. Tom Corbett is] taking away too much money from schools and putting it into prisons," said Shayla Johnson, a 17-year-old junior at West Philadelphia's Overbrook High School. Corbett plans to increase funding of Pennsylvania's prison system by \$186 million. This is on top of the \$685 million already being spent to build three new prisons and expand nine others, adding 5,343 beds to the state prison system.

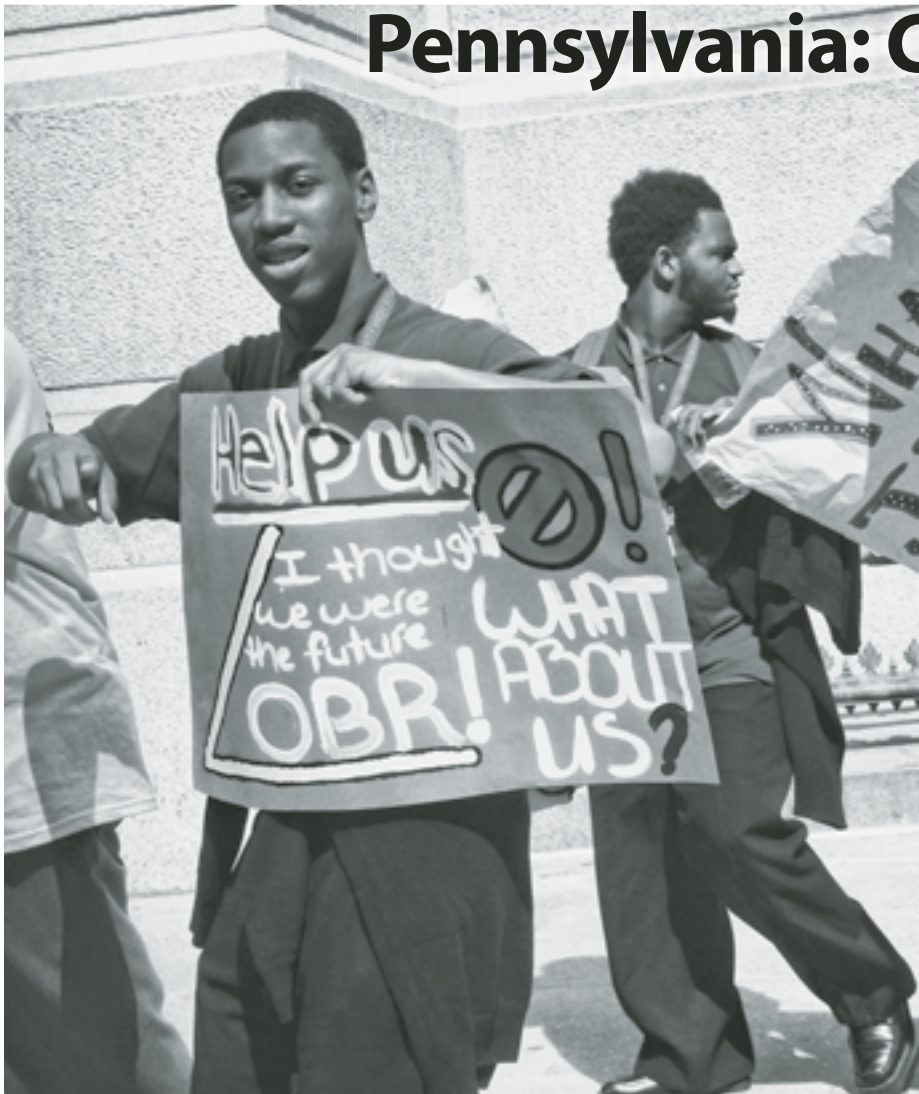
Members of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus announced their opposition to the education cuts last week: "The governor's budget would cut education spending, on average, by \$819 for a low income student, by \$867 for a Hispanic student, and \$1,091 for a black student. The typical Caucasian student would experience only a \$493 cut. Statewide, the average cut would be \$623 per student."

The cuts to public education are being made as unprecedented state funds to charter, private and parochial schools are being considered.

According to the Keystone State Education Coalition, a school voucher bill, SB1, now being debated, "is no longer a bill about poor kids trapped in violent or failing schools. It is a bill that will use public money to pay tuition for middle-class children who are already attending private or parochial schools."

The Coalition explains, "Less than 8 percent of all vouchers are expected to go to kids from these 144 'failing schools.' ... SB1 will create a two-tiered school system of public and private schools, with private schools choosing the children they want to educate using public money."

Corbett plans to divert money earmarked for charters from all state school districts into an independently run "state



Philadelphia students demand quality education, May 25.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

The police & rape



By Monica Moorehead

Consider these horrific facts provided by the National Organization for Women: Every year approximately 132,000 women report they have been violently violated by rape or attempted rape. More than half of that number knew their attackers. It's estimated that two to six times that many women are raped, but do not report it. Every year 1.2 million women are raped by their current or former male partners, some more than once.

The United States has the highest rape rate among countries that report such statistics. It is four times higher than that of Germany, 13 times higher than that of Great Britain, and 20 times higher than that of Japan.

Does the sexual assault of women by male police officers factor anywhere into these statistics? Putting aside individual cases here and there, the answer is "no." So it is within this general context that the egregious May 26 acquittal of two New York Police Department officers on rape charges should be viewed.

Officers Kenneth Moreno and Franklin Mata were called to help an intoxicated woman out of a taxi and escort her safely to her apartment. They were videotaped entering the East Village apartment of the woman, not once, not twice, but three times on Dec. 7, 2008. Moreno was charged with actually sexually assaulting the woman as Mata stood guard while this violence took place.

Both officers were found guilty of three counts of "official misconduct" — all misdemeanors — followed by termination of their jobs. In other words, they only got a slap on the wrist. The officers face up to one year on each charge of misconduct and will be sentenced in State Supreme Court in Manhattan on June 28.

People throughout the city became outraged with the verdict. A protest or-

ganized by women's groups was held on May 27 in front of the courthouse where the trial took place.

Cops are no heroes

This latest incident holds important lessons. From the earliest days of childhood, it is drummed into our heads that the "policeman" is our "friend" and "protector." This indoctrination continues throughout adulthood with an endless, nauseating parade of TV dramas and Hollywood movies, all glorifying the dangerous "job" of being a police officer. But this is not the reality.

Under capitalist society, the police are a deadly force of men and women trained to keep "order" for the small class of multimillionaires and billionaires whose corporations and banks control all the wealth created by the global working class. This "order" has created entrenched poverty,

massive unemployment, slave wages, racial profiling, the incarceration of millions, and unprecedented objectification of women.

Bourgeois laws that are enforced with such harshness, degradation and insensitivity by the courts exist not only to protect the interest of the haves versus the have-nots, but also to protect the repressive force — the police. In fact, the police are above any laws that are meant to keep the masses in check. When has anyone ever heard of a police officer receiving a death sentence for killing an unarmed African American, Latino/a or working-class youth? Yet these senseless killings are almost an everyday occurrence, es-

pecially in large urban areas where there are no jobs and dire poverty.

If a woman dares to try to bring an accused rapist to justice, in many instances her character is actually put on trial by defense attorneys and their witnesses, who try to blame her for the violence brought upon her. Women in numerous rape cases are accused of "asking for it" based on how they are dressed or for being intoxicated.

Women should have the right to feel safe and be safe. Period. The police are not the answer. It will take a socialist revolution to usher in a humane, cooperative society to guarantee full equality for all women and ensure women's rights and safety. □

New Yorkers protest rape verdict

Hundreds of angry women and men came out May 27 to protest the acquittal of two New York City cops who stood trial for raping a woman they were called to assist. The demonstration started at 100 Centre St., a Manhattan court building, and marched to the entrance of 1 Police Plaza, where several hundred people faced off against cops in riot helmets behind barricades. Then the march went back to the street and headed over the Brooklyn Bridge. Chants at the protest included "Stop police brutality" and "No justice, no peace, f--- the police!"

— Report & photo by Tony Murphy



charter authorizer," which would manage charter funding centrally instead of through individual school districts.

Not surprisingly, "The charter school community embraces the opportunity to work with Gov. Corbett and the legislature," said Pennsylvania Coalition of Public Charter Schools president, Lawrence F. Jones Jr. "We support the Governor's vision for education reform, even in the face of difficult fiscal times." (<http://philly-schoolsearch.com>)

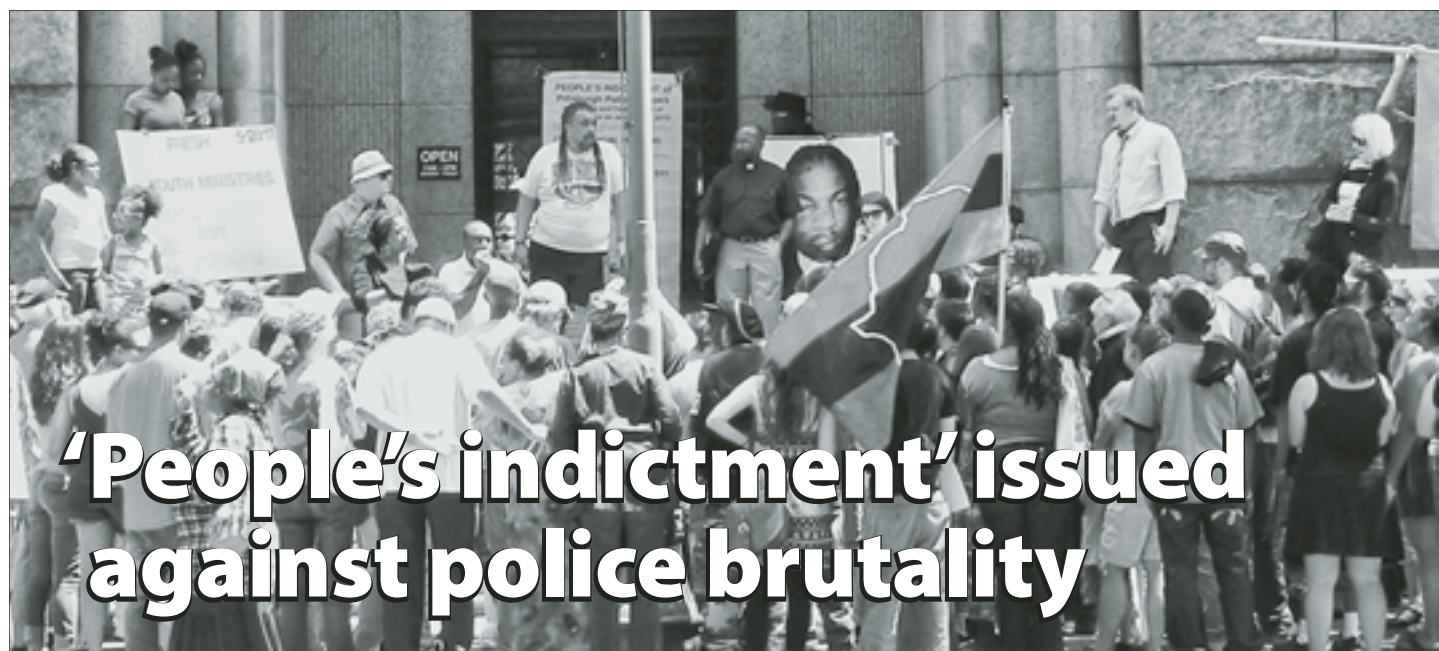
Workers pay more for less

While state and federal politicians brag about their opposition to tax increases, the tax burdens on working and poor families are being increased dramatically.

A statewide poll in April by the Philadelphia Inquirer revealed that "all but a handful" of the state's school districts are planning tax increases, while 88 percent were considering layoffs and 71 percent were planning to eliminate programs.

Meanwhile, Gov. Corbett's budget includes \$970 million in new tax breaks for corporations, according to the Coalition for Labor Engagement and Accountable Revenues. So many loopholes already exist that more than 70 percent of Pennsylvania corporations pay no state income tax at all, according to the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center. The governor also refuses to touch a growing state revenue surplus of \$700 million.

The funds do exist in this rich country to educate our youth. However, the money is in the hands of the rich. A mass movement is needed to take what is rightfully ours. □



May 28 protest indicts Pittsburgh cops for brutality.

By Audrey Hoak
Pittsburgh

Determined not to live in a city plagued by police brutality, a couple hundred vocal and resolved Pittsburghers showed up at Allegheny County courthouse on May 28 and hung a People's Indictment on the gate. The group represented the thousands who had signed petitions demanding justice for all people starting with Jordan Miles and the passage of local bill 2010-0234 — the "Police Reporting and Accountability Bill," which is similar to bills passed in Philadelphia and New York City.

On Jan. 12, 2010, Jordan Miles was walking to his grandmother's house when three undercover cops jumped out of an unmarked car and, without identifying themselves as police, charged toward him hollering, "Where's the money? Where's the drugs?" It was an ambush! Fearing for his life, 18-year-old Miles ran until he was caught, beaten mercilessly and arrested. The cops said they thought he had a gun in his pocket and later said it was a soda bottle. Neither was found.

Charges against Miles were dropped. The people charged officers Richard Ewing, David Sistak and Michael Saldute

with racial profiling, assault and battery, false arrest and perjury, and demanded that Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala do his job and bring them to trial.

This is the fourth consecutive week of protest since the Department of Justice issued a report failing to prosecute the three police officers on federal civil rights violations. The officers are back on the beat, but not for long if the coalition of groups and like-minded people demanding justice stays strong and stands shoulder to shoulder.

For more information visit www.justiceforjordanmiles.com. □

PHOTO: KELLY VALDEZ

African Union calls for end to NATO bombing of Libya

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

South African President Jacob Zuma paid a state visit to Libya on May 30 that proved to be a fruitless effort to bring about a ceasefire in the war launched by Western-backed rebels and NATO forces, which have intensified their bombing of the capital of Tripoli and other areas of the country. Zuma was acting on behalf of the African Union, which held an extraordinary meeting on May 25 aimed at bringing an end to the war against Libya.

Although South Africa was one of the countries whose government voted in favor of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1973, which has served as the pseudo-legal basis for an all-out military onslaught against the North African state, Zuma has spoken out against the bombing and regime-change strategy that was the real motive behind the resolution. NATO has admitted that since March 19 nearly 4,000 bombing missions have been carried out against the Libyan people by the U.S., Britain, France, Italy, Canada and other imperialist states and their allies.

The NATO forces, which are providing arms, logistics, economic and po-

litical support for the rebel Transitional National Council, have stepped up airstrikes against Tripoli. At the same time the British and French governments have announced the deployment of Tiger and Apache helicopters, which will inevitably kill and injure more civilians.

U.S. President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron held a joint press conference in London on May 24 calling for the overthrow of the government of Moammar Gadhafi. Obama at first had said the war against Libya was limited, but he is now demanding immediate regime change. He faces growing opposition to the war inside the United States.

The U.S. Congress is being prodded to vote on whether the Pentagon should continue with the war in North Africa. Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio is submitting a resolution in the House of Representatives challenging the legality of the war against Libya.

African Union holds special session on Libya

The extraordinary session of the African Union held on May 25 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, produced a statement call-

ing for an immediate halt to the NATO bombing and the beginning of negotiations to end the war.

On March 11 the AU Peace and Security Council had issued a communiqué opposing foreign intervention in Libya. Numerous efforts by the AU and several Latin American states have been rejected outright by the imperialist states and their rebel allies operating inside eastern Libya.

The AU stressed that in light of the horrendous conditions facing Libyans and African migrant workers, who have been targeted in racist attacks by the counter-revolutionary forces, the NATO bombing should be immediately halted. Point five of the AU statement notes: “The continuation of the NATO-led military operation defeats the very purpose for which it was authorized in the first place, i.e., the protection of the civilian population, and further complicates any transition to a democratic dispensation in Libya.”

The opposition TNC forces that are fighting the Gadhafi government have not been elected by anyone, other than the Western imperialist states. The TNC is largely led by monarchists, defectors from the government, and numerous groups that have opposed the government for decades.

The AU statement addressed the deliberate failure of the rebels and their U.S./NATO supporters to acknowledge the role of the continent’s leaders in resolving the Libyan war, expressing “surprise and disappointment at the attempts to marginalize the continent in the management of the Libyan conflict” and recalled that “Africa, particularly the countries of the region, are those that bear the greatest impact of the conflict in Libya, both in terms of security and socio-economic consequences.”

The African National Congress Youth League of South Africa pointed out: “The rebels have wounded hundreds of black immigrants from the poorest African

countries, who worked mainly as low-wage day laborers in Libya. From fear of being killed, some of them have refrained from going to a doctor. At the time of the outbreak of civil war, about 1.5 million black Africans were employed in Libya as laborers in the oil industry and the construction, agriculture and service sectors.” (ANC Today, May 27)

Conditions for refugees worsen

On May 25 a refugee camp in Tunisia housing more than 1,000 African migrant workers was attacked by the military and locals in the area, illustrating the precarious position facing those in border towns who have fled the fighting in Libya.

This camp housed African migrant workers from various countries, including Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia and Ivory Coast. It was reported that the tents providing shelter for the refugees were set on fire and the belongings of the inhabitants stolen; five Sudanese men were shot. (Guardian, May 25)

These attacks on refugees come amid reports of preparations for a land invasion by the U.S. and other NATO troops.

Manlio Dinucci wrote in *Il Manifesto* on May 28: “The U.S. has sent a naval attack group led by the most modern and powerful Nimitz-class nuclear aircraft carrier, named George H.W. Bush. The ship is 333 meters long, 40 meters wide and has on board 6,000 personnel, 56 aircraft (which can take off at 20-second intervals) and 15 helicopters, and is equipped with sophisticated electronic warfare systems.” (*Il Manifesto*, May 28; translated from Italian by WW)

In the event of a ground invasion, the fighting inside Libya will intensify. With a purported “humanitarian” landing of European and U.S. troops, the war will enter a new and even more dangerous phase. Consequently, the anti-war and anti-imperialist forces in the U.S. and Europe must escalate their opposition to yet another war of occupation. □

Cynthia McKinney speaks on Libyan TV

Speaking on Libyan TV May 21, former U.S. Congressperson Cynthia McKinney condemned the brutal war against the government and the people of that country. McKinney, an African American and a fierce critic of U.S. foreign policy in Africa and the Middle East, traveled to Libya as part of a fact-finding mission to expose the criminal nature of the war.

McKinney stated, “It’s very important that people understand what is happening here. And it’s important that people all over the world see the truth. And that is why I am here ... to understand the truth.”

The Green Party 2008 presidential candidate emphasized: “I want to say categorically and very clearly that these policies of war ... are not what the people of the United States stand for, and it’s not what African Americans stand for. Under the economic policies of the Obama administration, those who have the least are losing the most. And those who have the most are getting even more.”

McKinney noted, “The situation in the United States is becoming more dire for average ordinary Americans, and the last thing we need to do is to spend money on death, destruction and war.”

These comments came in the aftermath of the NATO bombing of numerous Libyan ships docked in three different ports along the Mediterranean coast. In addition to bombing ships, NATO forces announced the deployment of attack helicopters into the theater of war.

NATO forces and the rebels they support have once again rejected calls for a ceasefire from the United Nations Secretary General as well as the Libyan government. Instead the European Union has opened an office in the rebel-held city of Benghazi in a further attempt to encourage regime change in the country.

— **Abayomi Azikiwe**



Cynthia McKinney on Libyan TV

NATO: A feast of blood

By **Cynthia McKinney**
Tripoli, Libya

Following are excerpts from a May 26 article received by Clarity Press. Read the entire article at <http://tinyurl.com/4y98ot3>.

Founded in 1945 at the end of World War II, NATO was founded by the United States in response to the Soviet Union’s survival as a communist state. NATO was the U.S. insurance policy that capitalist ownership and domination of European, Asian and African economies would continue.

With that as background, last night’s NATO rocket attack on Tripoli is inexplicable. A civilian metropolitan area of around 2 million people, Tripoli sustained 22 to 25 bombings last night, rattling and breaking windows and glass, and shaking the foundation of my hotel.

I left my room at the Rexis Al Nasr Hotel and walked outside the hotel, and I could smell the exploded bombs. There were local people everywhere milling with foreign journalists from around the world. As we stood there more bombs struck around the city. The sky flashed red with explosions and more rockets

from NATO jets cut through low clouds before exploding.

I could taste the thick dust stirred up by the exploded bombs. I immediately thought about the depleted uranium munitions reportedly being used here — along with white phosphorus. If depleted uranium weapons were being used, what [would be the] effect on the local civilians?

Women carrying young children ran out of the hotel. Others ran to wash the dust from their eyes. With sirens blaring, emergency vehicles made their way to the scene of the attack. Car alarms, set off by the repeated blasts, could be heard underneath the defiant chants of the people.

Sporadic gunfire broke out, and it seemed everywhere around me. Euro-news showed video of nurses and doctors chanting even at the hospitals as they treated those injured from NATO’s latest installation of shock and awe. Suddenly, the streets around my hotel became full of chanting people, car horns blowing. Inside the hotel, one Libyan woman carrying a baby came to me and asked me: “Why are they doing this to us?”

I am confident that NATO would not have been so reckless with human life

if they had [been] called on to attack a major Western city.

Only the day before, at a women’s event in Tripoli, one woman came up to me with tears in her eyes. Her mother is in Benghazi, and she can’t get back to see if her mother is OK or not. People from the east and west of the country lived with each other, loved each other, intermarried, and now, because of NATO’s “humanitarian intervention,” artificial divisions are becoming hardened. NATO’s recruitment of allies in eastern Libya smacks of the same strain of cold warriorism that sought to assassinate Fidel Castro and overthrow the Cuban Revolution with “homegrown” Cubans willing to commit acts of terror against their former home country.

More recently, Democratic Republic of Congo has been amputated de facto after Laurent Kabila refused a request from the Clinton administration to formally shave off the eastern part of his country. This plan to balkanize and amputate an African country (as has been done in Sudan) did not work because Kabila said “no” while Congolese around the world organized to protect the “territorial integrity” of their country.

What is quite clear is this: What I ex-

Mass demonstrations in Spain spread across Europe

By Ben Carroll

May 30 — Demonstrations and occupations against the capitalist crisis, austerity and mass unemployment continued into their third week across Spain, sending ripples across the rest of the continent as other young people and workers organized protests and encampments in solidarity with the revolt that ignited on May 15. It's now called 15-M.

Demonstrators occupied more than 70 city squares throughout the country, and similar actions were reported throughout France, Italy and Greece.

Every day thousands of mostly young people pack Puerta del Sol — Madrid's most popular main square — for rallies, assemblies and other mass actions. On May 15, youths, workers and the unemployed gathered for large demonstrations across the Spanish state against the capitalist austerity measures advanced by the Spanish government. These measures include wage cuts for public workers, freezing pensions, raising the retirement age and more.

The conditions workers face are staggering unemployment that sits at 21.3 percent for the general population and around 45 percent for people age 18 to 25.

The demonstrators also demand democratic reforms, for example, in the election laws and an end to rampant corruption.

On May 27, police attacked the encampment at Plaza Catalunya in Barcelona, attempting to clear the square using batons and firing rubber bullets into the crowd. More than 100 demonstrators were injured, some of them requiring hospitalization. Cops tore down signs that had been hung around the square and hauled off computers and other materials that organizers were using to build the occupation.

The cops' pretext was that the square in the country's second-largest city needed to be cleared before a big soccer match between FC Barcelona and Manchester. Together, these teams have a combined worth of nearly \$3 billion. Beyond serving the interests of the super-rich capitalists who own these teams, the police attack on the Plaza Catalunya occupation was meant as a warning to the masses of youth



Youth gather on May 15 in Puerta del Sol, Spain.

PHOTO: MARYSOL MORACHO

and workers who dare to rise up and fight back against the conditions of capitalism.

Hours after the police attack, demonstrators defiantly retook the square. Demonstrations and marches in solidarity with Barcelona's youths took place throughout Spain, including one of 20,000 people in Seville, the country's fourth largest city.

On May 28, peoples' assemblies were held throughout different neighborhoods of Madrid. Demonstrators planned for these assemblies to discuss important questions about tactics, strategy and formulating more concrete political demands. Various documents and resolutions in which activists have attempted to develop a political program for the 15-M movement have been circulating, but nothing has yet been formally adopted.

Organizers had initially said that the occupations would conclude on May 29. But at a mass assembly held Sunday evening in Puerta del Sol, demonstrators decided by consensus to continue the occupations indefinitely. While participants were conscious of the difficult logistics of maintaining a living space together with a political meeting space, they also knew that the whole world was watching Puerta del Sol.

Another assembly has been set for Sunday, June 12.

The youth and workers of Spain are waging a bold struggle, one needed now more than ever. Profit-hungry bankers are looking to collect on their debts and are stealing more and more from the working class while imposing devastating austerity programs, not just in Spain but around the globe.

One, two, many Tahrir Squares

The mass uprisings that rocked Egypt, Tunisia and countries throughout North Africa and the Middle East starting in January and the tactics used there helped inspire the developments in Spain. These in turn have served as a clarion call to all those fighting the attacks on the public sector. Young people across Europe have answered this call and built demonstrations and encampments in many other cities on the continent.

In France and Italy thousands of young people rallied and began occupying city squares against the austerity measures being implemented by the governments there and in solidarity with the encamp-

ments in Spain. Police attacked demonstrators in Bastille Square in Paris.

In Greece nearly 40,000 young people and workers demonstrated in Athens' Syntagma Square on May 29, the fifth consecutive day of protests there. Major cities throughout the country have seen similar protests over the last week.

The previous day, the All Workers Militant Front (PAME) organized demonstrations in major cities against the austerity measures there in coordination with other trade unions including the All Farmers Militant Coalition, the Federation of Women in Greece and the Students' Militant Coalition.

These demonstrations in Greece come as the government there has been discussing a massive sell-off of state-owned industries to satisfy the terms of a bailout package the country was forced to accept last year from the International Monetary Fund. Greece faces a new round of austerity that the European Central Bank wants to impose to ensure collection of interest on loans to the Greek government.

With protests set to continue in Spain, and others growing across the continent and the world, these hopeful signs point to the emergence of a truly global fight-back against austerity and the globalized capitalist crisis. □

Zelaya's return to Honduras celebrated in New York

By Michael Kramer
New York

Excited supporters of democratically elected President Jose Manuel Zelaya Rosales celebrated his return to Honduras at New York City's Solidarity Center on May 28. Participants at the event, mostly Hondurans, support the Honduran National Front for Popular Resistance and the FNRP's ongoing struggle for Zelaya's return and an end to political repression and economic exploitation in their country.

Speakers who addressed the meeting

were Lucy Pagoada of Honduran Resistance USA; Hon. Carol Delgado, Consul General of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and Roberto Quesada, columnist for *Tiempo*, a daily newspaper published in Honduras.

Zelaya supporters viewed his historic return to Honduras for more than six hours via a live video Internet stream broadcast by the Telesur satellite network.

Honduran Resistance USA and the Latin America-Caribbean Solidarity Committee of the International Action Center hosted the event. □



Hondurans celebrate the return of President Manuel Zelaya in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, May 28.

Continued from page 8

perienced last night is no "humanitarian intervention."

Many suspect it is about all the oil under Libya. Call me skeptical, but I have to wonder why the combined armed sea, land and air forces of NATO and the U.S. costing billions of dollars are being arraigned against a relatively small North African country, and we're expected to believe it's in the defense of democracy.

What I have seen of long lines to get fuel is not "humanitarian intervention." Refusal to allow purchases of medicine for the hospitals is not "humanitarian intervention."

People around the world need us to stand up and speak out for ourselves and them because Iran and Venezuela are also in the cross-hairs. Libyans don't need NATO helicopters, gunships, smart bombs, cruise missiles and depleted uranium to settle their differences. NATO's "humanitarian intervention" needs to be exposed for what it is with the bright, shining light of the truth.

Stop bombing Africa and the poor of the world! □

Mladic, Libya and justice

Politicians running the powerful imperialist countries in Europe and North America and their corporate media have unanimously hailed the arrest of Yugoslav/Serbian Gen. Ratko Mladic as a triumph of democracy. Even if you knew nothing about the civil war in Bosnia, you would have to be suspicious of these declarations. Why? Because the first thing the imperialists tried to do is use the arrest to justify the current war against Libya.

Editorials in Britain and the U.S., for example, presented the following Big Lie: Mladic’s case proves that NATO’s so-called humanitarian military interventions are needed. Then they argued that the “West” has to go after the Moammar Gadhafi government in Libya. If not, they contend, some massacre would happen like in Srebrenica, a town in Bosnia.

If NATO’s “humanitarian” bombings kill a dozen Afghan children, as one did May 28, the same editorial writers pass it off as “collateral damage,” a phrase a NATO’s spokesperson invented during the 78-day bombing war against Yugoslavia in 1999. That war has many similarities to the current U.S.-NATO bombing of Libya.

There is not enough space here to review the 1990-2000 imperialist campaign that succeeded in destroying and tearing apart Yugoslavia or to review all the controversial statements about Srebrenica. But there is no reason to accept the judgment from London, Paris, Berlin and Washington that Mladic and the Serbs were evil incarnate. Nor is there reason to consider the court in The Hague, Netherlands, fair.

There is good reason for thousands of Serbs to protest their government’s arrest of Mladic, as they did May 29. NATO set up this court to try Serb leaders and to put pressure on them. It was never fair. It brought few charges against

other political elements or peoples in the former Yugoslavia. Like the International Criminal Court bringing charges now against Gadhafi and his government or against leaders in Sudan, the Yugoslavia court is a political weapon in the hands of the imperialists.

And this court never reviewed the serious war crimes that NATO leaders committed in the Balkans. From the beginning, German imperialism provoked the civil war in Bosnia when it recognized the split-off, right-wing Alija Izetbegovic government. U.S. imperialist diplomats prolonged the civil war for three years when they encouraged Izetbegovic to refuse a truce in 1992 quite similar to the one that ended the war in 1995. (For more information see the book “NATO in the Balkans” published by the International Action Center, 1998.)

The truth of Bosnia, Mladic and the town of Srebrenica will never come out of a NATO court, where NATO’s own war crimes are being covered up. Even Philip Corwin, the highest ranking United Nations official in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1995, says that the international media “exaggerates” — diplomatic jargon for “lies” — when claiming there was a massacre of 8,000 civilians in Srebrenica. Srebrenica was a battle site, and, he says, there were civilians killed, as civilians are killed in all war zones. He says that about 800 died in the battle, most of them combatants. (“The Srebrenica Massacre: Evidence, Context, Politics”) It was NATO, under the same political leaders and generals who are now charging Mladic, that has committed serious war crimes in the Balkans, in Afghanistan and now in Libya.

No bomb, no “international court,” no news media in the hands of the imperialists can be trusted. Put the NATO leaders on trial. Hands off Serbia and Libya! □

Floods, tornadoes & social revolution

By Deirdre Griswold

Whether it’s precipitation driven by strong storms or the lack of rain, the weather has been changing — sometimes drastically. It used to be that weather was one of those things you couldn’t change. You just had to accept what came and make the best of it.

But it turns out that we actually were changing it. We just didn’t know. Now we do. Despite what the energy corporations and their lying think tanks have been feeding the public, there is no dispute among real scientists.

The last couple of centuries of burning coal, oil and natural gas — the so-called fossil fuels — have surrounded the earth with a blanket of heat-trapping carbon dioxide. This in turn has warmed the oceans and the land masses, meaning more moisture is sucked up into the clouds creating heavier precipitation and stronger winds.

We can’t ignore the results. Much of the world has recently become a much more dangerous place to live. We hear fatalistically reported news about terrible droughts in parts of Africa and torrential rains in South America. But now that deadly flooding and tornadoes are hitting the Midwest and the South, wouldn’t you expect there to be a sense of urgency in government and the media here?

The Union of Concerned Scientists on May 19 held a telephone press conference from its offices in Washington, D.C., soon after the Mississippi River reached its highest flood levels ever recorded.

A panel of scientists discussed the connection between extreme weather events and global warming. Reuters reported: “Heavy rains, deep snowfalls, monster floods and killing droughts are signs of a ‘new normal’ of extreme U.S. weather events fueled by climate change, scientists and government planners said. ‘It’s a new normal and I really do think that global weirding is the best way to describe what we’re seeing,’ climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe of Texas Tech University told reporters. ... Hayhoe, other scientists, civic planners and a manager at the giant Swiss Re reinsurance firm all cited human-caused climate change as a factor pushing this shift toward more extreme weather.”

Reuters is a British news service. Why wasn’t this reported by the Associated Press and the powerful U.S. networks?

Weather & ‘security’

Alabama was hit by a wave of tornadoes in April that together killed 243 people. Those were followed on May 22 by the deadliest single tornado to hit the U.S. in 65 years, which killed 140 people in Joplin, Mo. — with 100 more still missing.

By May 28, this year had 519 confirmed fatalities from tornadoes — already matching the previous record — and there’s still a month to go in tornado season.

Scientists are cautiously saying that global warming causes more tornadoes. While the number of tornadoes reported has been increasing, more accurate reporting of these storms could have contributed to that. But better records have long been kept of actual tornado deaths, and these are definitely on the rise.

If 519 people had died in plane crashes this year, wouldn’t there be a huge investigation? Wouldn’t the responsible authorities be told to take immediate action to protect the flying public? And what about that well-financed agency, the Department of Homeland Security? Why

does it seem to do nothing except manufacture “conspiracies” so it can railroad people to jail and call that a victory over “terrorism”? No security there.

The lack of any meaningful response to global warming, despite its costs — and they are only beginning — creates an atmosphere of pessimism and leaves the field open to the most irrational “explanations” of where we are headed.

When capitalism first came on the scene as a social system, combatting the medieval views of the feudal nobility and the church, it championed science as against mysticism and fatalism. It nurtured optimism that the ability of humans to unravel the mysteries of nature would bring us as a species to a much better place, able to end famine and disease, and develop our productive skills so that all could enjoy a comfortable life. The rigors and hardships suffered by the majority of producers would become a thing of the past.

Science & social change

Those days are long gone. The forces of production have developed exponentially under capitalism — but wildly, driven by the market and the lust for ever greater profits. The class divide has widened enormously. The application of scientific thinking to social questions has been sabotaged by the urgent need of the big corporations and banks to make their bundle and the rest of society be damned.

Look at how long it took the medical industry to demand that smoking be discouraged. It took the intervention of the big insurance companies, which didn’t want to pay for all the illness and deaths caused by smoking, to get laws that would encourage a healthier life style. And what it will take to move to a sustainable economic system is immeasurably more demanding than merely banning smoking.

Is it a stretch to mention the “rapture” craze in this analysis of the results of global warming? With climate scientists much maligned, charlatans who quote scripture that the end of the world is nigh are free to hoodwink the gullible. And people are gullible because the knowledge they need to understand their world is hard to get through the haze of obfuscating, reactionary talk shows and a profitable mass culture that promotes the “paranormal,” scaring people half to death with sensational and mystical nonsense.

The salvation of the world and its peoples lies in social change that will clear away all the obstructions to rational use and development of our natural and human-made resources. This means taking ownership and control away from the class of super-rich who presently make the rules and decisions. They always have a narrow goal: to promote their interests as a highly privileged class that derives its power from its ownership of capital. Private ownership must be overthrown and social ownership instituted. That’s the only real meaning of socialism, and it requires the revolutionary reconstitution of society.

There is a convergence of interest between the working class, which historically has had to stand up to capital just to survive, and all those intermediate strata who are deeply concerned about the freight train of climate change bearing down on us. All progressive struggles are lifted once the workers are in motion. What once seemed impossible becomes possible at last. □



NATO in the Balkans Voices of Opposition

by Ramsey Clark and others

Confused about the real reasons the U.S. bombed Yugoslavia? This book, released in 1998, will give you the secret background and hidden role of the U.S. and Germany in the dismemberment of Yugoslavia.

NATO in the Balkans shows how “Big Lie” war propaganda nearly silenced popular debate and opposition.

Authors former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, Sean Gervasi, Sara Flounders, Thomas Deichmann, Gary Wilson and Nadja Tesich will take you through the ins and the outs, the framework and media lies that led to the series of bloody conflicts that have characterized central Europe in the last years of this century.

International Action Center, 1998, paperback, 230pp, index



Hidden Agenda: U.S./NATO Takeover of Yugoslavia

By Ramsey Clark and various authors

Washington and NATO strategists invoked humanitarian principles to justify their war. But they practiced the divide-and-conquer tactics used by empires since the days of Imperial Rome.

Behind the facade of concern for self-determination, they sliced away most of the republics of Yugoslavia, one by one, through economic pressure, political threats and, finally, outright warfare.

International Action Center, 2002, Paperback, 408pp, Maps, Photographs, Index.

U.S. imperialism's role

Yemen teeters on brink of civil war

By G. Dunkel

Hundreds of thousands of people, predominantly youth, took to the streets throughout Yemen on May 28 to demand President Ali Abdullah Saleh leave. Earlier, there had been heavy fighting between government forces and tribally based militias, joined by dissident factions of the army. (Miami Herald, May 28)

In February, after the victories of protests in Tunisia and Egypt, protesters took over the plaza in front of the university in Sana. In conjunction with a very broad and legal opposition coalition called the Joint Meeting Parties, these protesters are demanding an end to the corruption that has enriched regime insiders. They condemn the bad schools, hospitals and roads as well as the skyrocketing price of food and of clean water. They demand jobs, especially for college and high-school graduates. (Middle East Review, May 3)

The JMP includes socialists, especially from the al-Hakar movement based in southern Yemen; Sunni Islamists and other conservatives affiliated with the party known as Islah; and partisans of Nasserist, Baathist and liberal platforms. Islah has both very socially conservative members, including some deemed "terrorist" by the U.S. State Department, and moderates such as Tawakkul Karman,

who is the founder of the nongovernmental organization Women Journalists Without Chains.

However, the U.S. State Department and some of the big business media have made a lot of noise about al Qaida, calling it the main "security" issue in Yemen.

This area contains the world's biggest source of oil. More than 3 million barrels of oil a day flow past Yemen's port of Aden. (Reuters, May 28) Yet Yemen is a desperately poor country; 40 percent of its 23.5 million people live on less than \$2 a day. It is also the country with the largest population on the Arabian Peninsula.

On Jan. 11, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton made a brief visit to Yemen where she held a "town hall" meeting. Clinton "was asked by a member of the Yemeni Parliament who leads an anticorruption committee how the United States could tolerate Mr. Saleh's strongman rule, given that it had helped to make Yemen a haven for terrorist groups."

Clinton replied: "We support an inclusive government. We see that Yemen is going through a transition. And you're right: it could go one way or the other. It could go the right way or the wrong way." (New York Times, Jan. 11)

Though Saleh has been an inconsistent ally, sometimes giving the OK for drone attacks, sometimes rebuffing U.S. re-

quests, the U.S. has consistently given his government significant amounts of aid. It has refrained from public criticism of the killing of some 300 unarmed protesters and the wounding of thousands more since protests began in February.

U.S. pressures Saleh to step down

The U.S. tone has changed recently. After many failed mediation attempts, mainly from the Gulf Cooperation Council, to arrive at an agreement for Saleh to leave power, Obama released a statement May 25 calling on Saleh to "move immediately" to transfer power. (AFP)

Saleh still clings to power. However, the forces of Sadiq al-Ahmar, the head of Yemen's largest tribe, the Hashid, successfully fought off a government attack on his headquarters in Sana that began May 23. They seized some government offices and forced a ceasefire by May 27.

Saleh survived the defection in March of Gen. Ali Muhsin, who ordered troops under his command to protect demonstrators in Sana under attack by the president's guard. (MER, May 3) Muhsin was the military commander who ran campaigns against Houthi insurgents in northern Yemen and southerners in the civil war of 1993-94.

According to the French Press Agency, 15 unarmed protesters were killed and 120 were wounded after a protest

at Freedom Square in Taiz on May 29. Thousands of protesters have been camping in the square since January demanding Saleh's departure. A Reuters video of the protest showed a group of women in burqas chanting against Saleh.

A number of press reports establish that a group of Islamic holy warriors have seized Zinjibar to "liberate" it from "the agents of the Americans." In a statement to the May 30 Yemen Post, the JMP claimed the Saleh government was behind the militants. "[Saleh] uses these tactics to show the international community what risks Yemen would pass through if he leaves office."

Gen. Abdullah Ali Aleiwa, a former defense minister who no longer supports Saleh, released a plea to Yemeni soldiers: "We call on you not to follow orders to confront other army units or the people." (Reuters, May 30)

The situation in Yemen is extremely fluid, with four main blocs competing: the Saleh government, dissident forces in the army under Gen. Ali Muhsin, tribal militias commanded by Sadiq al-Ahmar, and the JMP. The last coalition is united around Saleh's departure, a fairer political system and a more equitable economy. The United States and Saudi Arabia do not want to see an outcome in which progressives and socialists play a major role. □

NYC event raises funds for Gaza flotilla

Hundreds gathered in New York City on May 25 for a special New York harbor boat ride to raise funds to send the ship "The Audacity of Hope" to Gaza as part of Freedom Flotilla II, set to sail in June. Twelve European countries are also sending ships to the flotilla, which plans to break the Israeli naval blockade of Gaza and deliver much-needed humanitarian aid. Ann Wright, a former U.S. Army colonel who resigned to protest the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, addressed supporters. A passenger on last year's Freedom Flotilla, Wright will sail again. Others who will go on the ship also attended.

In May 2010 nine solidarity activists on the Freedom Flotilla I were killed in cold blood by Israeli commandos. Special guest at the fundraising boat ride was Professor Ahmet Dogan, father of Furkan Dogan, the 19-year-old U.S. citizen killed in that Israeli commando raid. The autopsy report, Dogan said, suggests that his son was first wounded and then executed, as a later shot was fired point-



Ann Wright addresses fundraiser for ship to Gaza.

blank to his forehead. Professor Dogan was given a standing ovation in tribute to his son's courage and his family's inspiring continued support for the flotillas and freedom for Gaza.

— Report and photo by Joyce Chediak



GAZA: Symbol of Resistance

A book of articles from WW, edited by Joyce Chediak

The compelling story of how Gazans withstood blockade and bombardment only to stand tall, refusing to give up the right to determine their own lives and to choose their own government; how Gaza's courage inspired a worldwide solidarity movement determined to break the blockade and deliver aid; exposes the forces behind the punishment of Gaza, and how a growing people's media is breaking the mainstream media's information blockade on this event.

Order from [www. Leftbooks.com](http://www.Leftbooks.com)

MUNDO OBRERO

EE.UU. estimula represión en América Latina

Continúa de página 12

estaba en la lista de la Interpol de personas vinculadas a las FARC.

Becerra, un sobreviviente del progresista bloque electoral Unión Patriótica, cuyos miembros fueron masacrados/as por escuadrones de la muerte en la década de 1980 después de ganar muchas oficinas locales en Colombia, tuvo que refugiarse en Suecia hace más de 10 años. Se convirtió en ciudadano sueco y comenzó una revista alternativa en línea (digital),

ANNCOL, que informa sobre la realidad en Colombia.

Por ello, ANNCOL ha sido un objetivo del ex presidente Álvaro Uribe y ahora del gobierno de Santos, quien quiere blanquear la imagen de Colombia con el fin de firmar un Tratado de Libre Comercio con EE.UU.

La declaración del Che Guevara: "al imperialismo, ni un tantito así" (ni la mínima concesión al imperialismo) ha demostrado una vez más que es correcta. El imperialismo forzó al gobierno venezola-

no, a través del aliado de Estados Unidos, Santos, para luego dar vuelta y acusarlo de todos modos, de ayudar al terrorismo.

Ahora Becerra está en peligro, junto a miles de otros/as presos/as políticos/as en Colombia, país que se vio obligado a abandonar después de que su primera esposa fuera asesinada.

El 19 de mayo, toda la base para acusar a Becerra fue demolida. La Corte Suprema de Justicia colombiana dictaminó que la supuesta evidencia de la computadora de Reyes no era válida y de hecho era ilegal, ya que entre otras consideraciones,

los presuntos equipos informáticos fueron tomados sin la autorización o la participación del gobierno ecuatoriano.

El tribunal también señaló que los archivos utilizados para acusar a los gobiernos venezolano y ecuatoriano, a Becerra, y a muchos/as otros/as activistas e incluso a la progresista senadora colombiana Piedad Córdoba, estaban en formato Word, no en correos electrónicos, por lo que no se podía probar que habían sido enviados o recibidos. (AFP, 19 de mayo)

Correo electrónico:
bjceci@workers.org

EE.UU. estimula represión en América Latina

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Mientras que levantamientos y manifestaciones masivas desafían a los regímenes títeres que llevan a cabo las privatizaciones y políticas anti-populares del imperialismo neoliberal, Estados Unidos, el máximo poder imperialista, emprende una amplia cacería de brujas. Está ayudado por las fuerzas de ultra-derecha en el país y en el extranjero y por sus marionetas en los países amigos. Usan el concepto “terrorista” para detener, juzgar e incluso ejecutar a quienes consideran una amenaza para el imperialismo — es decir, al capitalismo monopolista en su fase final.

Dos ejemplos recientes en el Caribe y América Latina ilustran esto, uno en Puerto Rico y otro respecto a Venezuela y Colombia.

Criminalización del movimiento independentista de Puerto Rico.

El 10 de mayo, durante una audiencia de 20 minutos en un tribunal federal de Hartford, Connecticut, Norberto González Claudio se declaró no culpable de los cargos relacionados con el robo en el 1983 de \$7,2 millones de un camión de la Wells Fargo por el Ejército Popular Boricua-Macheteros, grupo clandestino, socialista, partidario de la independencia de Puerto Rico.

Diez días antes, agentes del FBI y de la Oficina de Investigaciones Especiales de Puerto Rico lo habían detenido en un pueblo en el centro de la isla. Después de más de dos décadas viviendo clandestina-

mente por el “delito” de luchar por la liberación de su patria, la pregunta es ¿por qué fue detenido ahora? ¿Hay un esfuerzo concertado para tomar represalias contra los movimientos de liberación anti-capitalistas y pro-socialistas?

Su hermano, Avelino González Claudio, ha estado en una cárcel de EE.UU. por los mismos cargos desde 2008. El 9 de mayo fue súbitamente clasificado como “terrorista doméstico” y separado de la población carcelaria general. Mientras esté en aislamiento, será más vulnerable a ser víctima de tortura. Por más de un año se le negó la medicina para la enfermedad de Parkinson, causándole un daño neurológico permanente.

El 10 de mayo, a otro prisionero político puertorriqueño en las mazmorras de EE.UU., Oscar López Rivera, se le negó la libertad condicional por considerar que su liberación podría “promover la falta de respeto a la ley”. Él ha estado tras las rejas por casi 30 años. (Prolibertadweb.tripod.com)

Muchas figuras a favor de la independencia de la isla están bajo la vigilancia constante de la policía y del FBI. Ellos y ellas recuerdan muy bien el vicioso y cruel asesinato del líder de los Macheteros Filiberto Ojeda Ríos en 2005, quien después de recibir un disparo, se desangró hasta morir mientras cientos de agentes del FBI observaban a su alrededor, negándole atención médica de emergencia.

Esto se entiende como una advertencia a las fuerzas progresistas de la Isla-Colonia, donde la situación política se encuentra en el punto de ebullición. Luis Fortu-

ño, el gobernador a favor de la estadidad y afiliado al fascistoide Partido del Té, ha acelerado el neoliberalismo mediante la imposición de leyes privatizadoras que benefician a la burguesía criolla y a las corporaciones transnacionales de EE.UU. Un ejemplo es su esfuerzo por privatizar la prestigiosa Universidad de Puerto Rico, lo que ha despertado un glorioso movimiento estudiantil.

Fortuño ha aumentado la fuerza represiva del estado como un apéndice de los EE.UU. al designar al segundo en jefe de la oficina del FBI en la isla, como superintendente de la Policía de Puerto Rico.

Venezuela y Colombia

En América del Sur, los esfuerzos impuestos por Estados Unidos para criminalizar la lucha y silenciar la oposición, han tomado otro carácter.

El mismo día en que las autoridades estadounidenses estaban ocupadas en la criminalización de los luchadores independentistas puertorriqueños, el Instituto Internacional para Estudios Estratégicos, un grupo de “expertos” para justificar el imperialismo (think tank), lanzó su último documento de agresión, esta vez contra Venezuela y Ecuador. El IISS (por sus siglas en inglés), debe ser recordado como el cerebro promotor de la mentira de las “armas de destrucción masiva” que sirvió de base para la invasión y ocupación estadounidense de Irak.

Nigel Inkster, director de Riesgo Transnacional y Amenazas Políticas del IISS, publicó un libro llamado “Los archivos de

las FARC: Venezuela, Ecuador y el Archivo Secreto de ‘Raúl Reyes’”. Inkster también había participado en el engaño de las armas de destrucción masiva.

El libro acusa a los gobiernos venezolano y ecuatoriano de una estrecha colaboración con las marxistas Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), a las cuales el gobierno de EE.UU. las coloca en la lista de organizaciones terroristas.

Sin embargo, el libro ya ha sido desacreditado — nada menos que por la Corte Suprema de Justicia de Colombia.

El informe del IISS se basa primordialmente en los supuestos resultados obtenidos por la Interpol sobre los archivos informáticos del líder de las FARC Raúl Reyes. Afirma que la computadora y las memorias flash (pen drives) se salvaron intactas milagrosamente después que los militares colombianos bombardearon un campamento de las FARC en Ecuador cerca de la frontera con Colombia el 1 de marzo de 2008. El bombardeo mató a Reyes y a 22 personas más, incluyendo a estudiantes mexicanos quienes visitaban el campamento. El informe está claramente destinado a la agresión contra Venezuela y sus esfuerzos para desarrollar la soberanía y la unidad regional independiente del imperialismo.

Es irónico que el gobierno venezolano, un par de semanas antes del informe del IISS, hubiera entregado al periodista revolucionario Joaquín Becerra al gobierno criminal colombiano de Juan Manuel Santos, supuestamente porque Becerra

Continúa a página 11

FBI intensifica caza de brujas anticomunista

Por Michael Martínez Los Ángeles

El sol no había amanecido aún en la fría y nítida mañana del 17 de mayo en Alhambra, un barrio al este de Los Ángeles. Era difícil creer que la primavera había llegado esa mañana a las 5 am, cuando el Departamento del Alguacil del Condado de Los Ángeles (LASD por las siglas en inglés) y su equipo SWAT (equipo de ataque y armas especiales) se reunieron en la entrada y en el patio delantero de la casa de Carlos Montes. El silencio de la mañana se hizo añicos al igual que la puerta de Montes cuando los oficiales la demolieron, ingresando a su casa portando rifles automáticos.

Montes es un miembro de Freedom Road Socialist Organization (Organización Socialista Camino a la Libertad, FRSO por sus siglas en inglés). Ha sido un activista desde hace mucho tiempo por los derechos de los/as inmigrantes y la liberación chicana en el sur de California. Fue fundador de los Brown Berets y un luchador en la Moratoria Chicana.

Como líder de la Coalición de Inmigración de California del Sur, Montes ha liderado las marchas del Primero de Mayo en defensa de los derechos de los/as inmigrantes en Los Ángeles desde 2006, junto con muchos otros luchadores/as como BAYAN USA, Unión del Barrio y el Centro

de Acción Internacional (IAC-CAI).

Aunque el LASD afirmó que allanaron la residencia de Montes por una denuncia de posesión ilegal de armas, la verdadera naturaleza de la incursión fue revelada cuando saquearon su casa y se llevaron documentos históricos políticos de más de 40 años que tratan de su activismo, fotos, su computadora y sus teléfonos celulares.

Detengamos la cacería de brujas

Montes no es el único activista que ha sido blanco de ataques del FBI por su trabajo solidario. En septiembre pasado, el FBI allanó 23 casas de activistas contra la guerra y de solidaridad internacional. Muchos de ellos/as pertenecen a FRSO, la misma organización a la que pertenece Montes. Ellos y ellas fueron citados a comparecer ante un gran jurado.

Después que estas citaciones fueron emitidas, Montes se convirtió en activista de esta causa junto a muchos otros partidarios, entre ellos, el Partido Workers World/Mundo Obrero, y F.I.S.T. (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together/Detengamos el Imperialismo, Unámonos), oponiéndose a la caza de brujas del gobierno contra los/as miembros de FRSO en el Medio Oeste.

Montes también fue nombrado en la citación del FBI que fue dejada en las oficinas del Comité de Lucha contra la

Guerra en las Ciudades Gemelas el 24 de Septiembre 2010. Al igual que muchos/as de los 23 activistas llamados/as ante el gran jurado, él había ayudado a organizar la marcha masiva en la jornada inaugural de la Convención Nacional Republicana del 2008.

Creando la resistencia

El 20 de mayo una multitud de más de 100 activistas se reunió frente al Edificio Federal en el centro de Los Ángeles. Lo que se organizó originalmente como una Conferencia de Prensa se convirtió en una manifestación en apoyo a Montes y contra las acusaciones del FBI.

Este escritor abrió el mitin, mientras la multitud coreaba: “FBI: manos fuera del movimiento” Montes agradeció a todos/as por su apoyo.

John Parker, coordinador regional de la Costa Oeste del IAC-CAI habló en defensa de Montes. Denunció las redadas del FBI e hizo un llamamiento a la solidaridad, evocando al Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., diciendo: “Un ataque contra uno es un ataque contra todos.”

Terrie Cervas de Gabriela USA, comparó la incursión del FBI en contra de Montes con el tratamiento que enfrentan los/as activistas políticos/as en Filipinas a manos del gobierno respaldado y formado por Estados Unidos.

Un camión que mostraba una gran pan-

carta en solidaridad con Montes, detuvo el tráfico en frente de la manifestación. Muy pronto, dos camionetas de la Seguridad Nacional se presentaron y el camión se movió. Los agentes del gobierno persiguieron y detuvieron el camión hacia el final del bloque. A media cuadra de distancia, los/as integrantes de la manifestación podían ver a los agentes acosando al conductor del camión.

Los/as manifestantes marcharon hacia el camión y presionaron a los agentes para que liberaran al conductor. La multitud enardecida gritaba, “¡Déjenlo ir! ¡Déjenlo ir!” Comenzaron a moverse de la acera hacia la calle. Los agentes estaban rodeados, y sintiendo la presión de la multitud, dejaron ir al conductor del camión.

Los/as manifestantes regresaron al Edificio Federal para continuar escuchando los demás discursos de quienes recientemente habían sido perseguidos y acosados por el Estado, como Alex Sánchez, líder de Homies Unidos, y Nativo López, un defensor de los derechos de los/as inmigrantes desde hace mucho tiempo.

Más acciones locales se darán a conocer pronto. Las redadas del FBI contra Montes y otros/as son inaceptables. Lo único que detendrá la mano del estado de repetir otra ola de encarcelamientos, de corte fascista y macartista, y la represión estilo COINTELPRO, será el movimiento popular de resistencia. □